Setting Up of IT Institute in Kabul

3872. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to set up an I.T. Institute in Kabul besides schools and hospitals; and

(b) if so, by when the construction would start and the target set up for completion of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Government of India is committed to offer assistance in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan. During the visit of H.E. Hamid Karzai, Chairman of the Afghan Interim Administration, to India on 26-27 February 2002, the areas of Health, Education, Information Technology, Industrial development, Public Transport and Training were identified for bilateral cooperation. Projects under consideration include contribution to computerization of Ministries in the Afghan Interim Administration and setting up of a computer training centre.

Pakistani Missiles

3873. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that spokesperson of General Musharraf has said that Pakistan is in possession of missiles which can target any city in India; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and what precautionary measures Government are going to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have seen such reports.

(b) Government continues to closely monitor all developments related to Pakistan's nuclear and missile programme.

Government remains fully committed to take all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interest in accordance with its assessment of threat to its security.

Indo-US Talks Regarding CTBT

3874. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether an Indo-US official level meet was held in New Delhi to discuss among others, the Nuclear issues like the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks; and

(c) what other issues were discussed therein and the decision, if any arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The two sides hold regular dialogue at ministerial and official levels in pursuit of the shared commitment to complete the process of qualitatively transforming India-US relations. The two sides discuss strengthening cooperation in counter-terrorism, defence, economic and commercial relations, science and technology, health, energy and environment, besides regional and international issues of mutual concern, including Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Bush'S instruction to Pakistan to end cross-border terrorism

3875. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. President George Bush has again asked on 9th March, 2002 the Pak military ruler Parvez Musharraf to end cross-border terrorism and not to play games about terrorism and to create conditions for meaningful dialogue with India on bilateral issues; and

(b) if so, what was Paks response and Government's reaction thereto?